

REMARKS

This communication is a full and timely response to the non-final Office Action dated March 29, 2005 (Paper No./Mail Date 031805), the period for response being extended through a request for one-month extension of time submitted herewith.. By this communication, claim 4 has been added.

Claim 4 depends from claim 1 and additionally recites that said light guided by said light guiding plate passes through said diffusion means. Support for the subject matter recited in claim 4 can be found variously throughout the specification, for example, at paragraph [0020] of the specification. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-4 are pending where claim 1 is independent.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by *Ozaki et al.*, U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001-0031658. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claim 1 recites a gaming machine comprising variable display means for variably displaying designs; a transparent liquid crystal display panel disposed in front of said variable display means through which the variable display means is able to be seen; a liquid crystal holder for holding the periphery of the display unit of said liquid crystal display panel; a light guiding plate for guiding light emitted from a light source to the rear side of said liquid crystal display panel; diffusion means for diffusing the light guided by the light guiding plate to equalize the light which illuminates said liquid crystal display panel; a black base frame attached in front of the machine for supporting said liquid crystal holder, said light guiding plate and said diffusion means such that the front of the display unit of the liquid crystal display panel has an opening; a transparent plate disposed in front of the base frame for closing the opening; and a rear holder for holding, said liquid crystal holder, said light guiding plate and said diffusion means supported by said base frame on said base frame from behind, and for reflecting the light emitted on said light guiding plate to the side of said liquid crystal display panel, the rear holder having one or more windows allowing the designs variably displayed in said variable display means to be observed.

Ozaki discloses a gaming machine having a main frame 14 that is divided into a top section 14a, a middle section 14b, and a bottom section 14c. The middle section 14b has a square opening 24 in which a front panel 26 is fitted. Transparent EL panels 28a, 28b, and 28c

are stacked behind the back face of the front panel 26 and constitute a front panel display. An intermediate panel 27 is behind the transparent EL panels 28a, 28b, and 28c. An EL display control 50g displays overlapping patterns and gaming information on the transparent EL panels 28a, 28b, and 28c based on display data. A light source 26 is located above a reflective plate 25, and a light source 9 is located behind the reflective plate 25. Light emitted by the light source 9 passes through the reflective plate to the EL panels, while light emitted from the light source 26 is reflected by the reflective plate 25.

Ozaki, however, fails to disclose, teach, or suggest at least diffusion means for diffusing the light guided by the light guiding plate to equalize the light which illuminates said liquid crystal display panel. The Office Action alleges that reflective plate 25 functions as both the light guiding plate and the diffusion plate (see Paper No. 031805, pg. 2, argument 2). However, *Ozaki* provides no teaching or suggestion that the light emitted by light source 26 is diffused. At best, the light emitted by light source 9 is diffused by the reflective plate 25, but this light is not guided by a light guiding plate as recited in the claim. Accordingly, *Ozaki* fails to anticipate claim 1.

To properly anticipate a claim, the document must disclose, explicitly or implicitly, each and every feature recited in the claim. See Verdegall Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of Calif., 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). *Ozaki* fails to disclose, teach, or suggest every element recited in independent claim 1, therefore these claims are not anticipated by *Ozaki*. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102 be withdrawn, and this claim be allowed.

Claims 2 and 3 depend from claim 1. By virtue of this dependency, Applicant submits that claims 2 and 3 are allowable for at least the same reasons given above with respect to claim 1. In addition, Applicant submits that claims 2 and 3 are further distinguished over *Ozaki* by the additional elements recited therein, and particularly with respect to each claimed combination. Applicant respectfully requests, therefore, that the rejection of claims 2 and 3 under 35 U.S.C. §102 be withdrawn, and these claims be allowed.

Newly Added Claim

Claim 4 depends from claim 1 and additionally recites that said light guided by said light guiding plate passes through said diffusion means. By virtue of its dependency, Applicant submits that claim 4 is allowable for at least the same reasons given above with respect to claim

1. In addition, Applicant submits that claim 4 is further distinguished over *Ozaki* by the additional elements recited therein, and particularly with respect to the claimed combination.

Conclusion

Based on at least the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that claims 1-4 are allowable, and this application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants request favorable reexamination and reconsideration of the application. In the event the Examiner has any comments or suggestions for placing the application in even better form, Applicants request that the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 18-0013, under Order No. SHO-0041 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated:

7/26/05

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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